

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This communication is in response to the Final Office Action dated January 26, 2008. Claims 6 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 6-11 and 13 remain pending in this application with claims 6 and 13 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration in view of the amendments to the claims and arguments presented below is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 is objected to as failing to further limit the subject matter of independent claim 6. Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the objection is now moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 6 and 13 are rejected in that the term “pre-tensioned” in describing the “movable pawl component” lacks antecedent basis. Antecedent basis has been added for the term in claim 6, while the term “pre-tensioned” has been deleted in claim 13 .

Claim 13 was also rejected in that the Examiner requests that Applicant clarify whether the guide rail is to be claimed in combination with the retraction device. Applicant asserts that claim 13, as amended, is directed to only the retraction device and does not include the guide rail.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the outstanding Office Action the Examiner indicated that claims 6 and 13 contained allowable subject matter that would be in condition for allowance if rewritten to overcome the outstanding objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant submits that the amendments to the claims overcome the outstanding objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, while still retaining allowable subject matter.


CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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